



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/750,233	12/27/2000	David J. Harriman	10559-387001/P10192	6621
20985	7590	04/26/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC 12390 EL CAMINO REAL SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2081			ORTIZ RODRIGUEZ, CARLOS R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2125	

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/750,233	HARRIMAN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Carlos Ortiz-Rodriguez	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 7-9, 16-18, 25-27 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,6,10-12,15,19-21 and 24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4,5,13,14,22 and 23 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 are allowed.
2. It is suggested to incorporate the following language from claim 4, 13, and 22 into claims 1, 10, and 19 respectively, in order to put claims 1, 10, and 19 in conditions for allowance: "applying an atomic rule to recognize a second set of the simulation signals; applying a non-atomic rule to recognize a first set of atomic rules."

Claim Objections

3. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, 23 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 15, 19-21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stumpf et al. U.S Patent No. 5,175,829 in combination of Hyduke U.S. Patent No. 5,479,355.

Regarding claims 1, 10 and 19 Stumpf et al. discloses the method comprising: applying a transaction rule (instruction) to recognize a set of signals (sequence of operations) as a transaction; and executing an action (trigger the processor to cause a lock) associated with the transaction rule (see for example C2 L10-35).

But Stumpf et al. fails to clearly specify generating simulation signals from a design simulation.

However Stumpf in combination with Hyduke disclose generating simulation signals from a design simulation (see for example Hyduke Abstract L5-8)

Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the above invention suggested by Stumpf et al. and combining it with the invention disclosed by Hyduke. The results of this combination would lead to recognizing signals in design simulation.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification because it is known in this art that design simulation/simulators generate simulation signals that are converted by an interface circuit to the signal format demanded by the external electrical hardware as suggested by Hyduke.

Regarding claims 2, 11, and 20 Stumpf et al. in combination with Hyduke disclose all the limitations of the base claims. Stumpf et al. in combination with Hyduke further disclose the

method further comprising: successively defining the transaction rule(instruction) using other rules (instructions having indivisible actions) so that the transaction rule is defined by the simulation signals (see for example Stumpf et al. C1 L20-25 and C2 L15-18).

Regarding claims 3, 12 and 21 Stumpf et al. discloses the method further comprising: executing an action (trigger the processor to cause a lock) associated with each rule to perform user-defined functions (see for example Stumpf et al. C2 L13-35, C3 L65-67 and C4 L1-8).

Regarding claims 6, 15 and 24 Stumpf et al. in combination with Hyduke disclose all the limitations of the base claims. Stumpf et al. in combination with Hyduke further disclose the method further comprising: producing an output which includes printing information about the transaction (see for example Hyduke C8 L57-67).

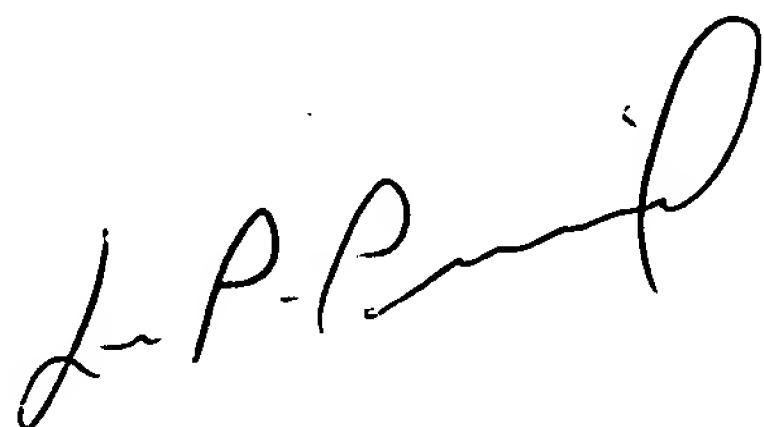
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Ortiz-Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-3747. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The central official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P Picard can be reached on (703)308-0538. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Carlos Ortiz-Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2125

cror

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISOR PATENT EXAMINER
TEC 2100

March 30, 2005